

WEST CHINA AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF A WESTERNER

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His Grace, the Archbishop of Sydney

Ninth Morrison Lecture

The ninth annual Morrison Lecture was delivered at the Australian Institute of Anatomy to a distinguished audience including Their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Lady Gowrie on Wednesday, 29th May, 1940.

The Lecturer was His Grace, the Archbishop of Sydney, who selected as his subject "West China Through the Eyes of a Westerner".

A large number of telegrams of good wishes were received, including those from the Chinese Vice-Consul, Sydney; the Chinese Vice-Consul, Melbourne; New South Wales Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Sydney; William Liu and D.Y. Narme, of Sydney.

The Chairman was Canon Edwards, Principal of the Canberra Grammar School. The vote of thanks to Archbishop Mowll was moved by Dr. Pao, Consul-General for the Republic of China, and seconded by Mr. Murphy, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Canberra, A.C.T.

Address

From 1923 until 1933 my home was at Chengtu, the capital of the province of Szechwan. During that period my duties, as Bishop of Western China, involved continual travelling throughout the greater part of what we now know as "Free China", i.e., that portion of China which is still completely independent of Japan.

There are few towns and villages in the province of Szechwan where there is not some evidence of the existence of a Chinese Christian community.

Because of my residence and experience there, I have been asked to address you to-night on "West China as seen through the eyes of a Westerner". That Westerner arrived as a stranger, and received so much kindness from the lovable, able, indomitable people of West China that he deems it a privilege if, by any words of his, he can make them, their present trials, their amazing development and their immense possibilities known to a wider circle in Australia.

West China is the most westerly portion of that great country which is to-day suffering in a war of aggression as devastating and crippling as are similar acts of aggression in Europe. It consists mainly of three large provinces—Szechwan, Yunnan and Kweichow. Szechwan alone is the size of France.

Fifteen hundred miles up the great Yangtse River from Shanghai, the province of Szechwan—abounding in beauty and grandeur of scenery, mountains and hills, rivers, valleys and fertile plains, abounding also in opportunity—has now become the heart of China, the home of her National Government. In this province, and in the neighbouring provinces of Yunnan and Kweichow, we are watching the birth of a new China, for into this great remoteness of Free China have poured millions of her people, a migration said to be one of the greatest in the history of the world. The populace has fled from the invading Japanese troops and their far-flying bombers. The migrating masses have come west, full of hope and lured onward by the far-famed natural resources of these provinces; for in Szechwan are great plains—the granaries of China—which have fed and nourished the 70,000,000 in the province and beyond it. These plains are the productive areas which the invaders have always longed to bring under their control. It is likely, however, that they will never succeed in so doing. China to-day is a nation of 400,000,000 who refuse to be conquered. Their fighting strength, after nearly three years of war, is greater than it has ever been. Out of the war has come a unity that did not exist for many years previously. Provincial and sectional differences are being forgotten and a national spirit, intense and powerful, is rapidly being created. Everywhere there is optimism and a calm determination to carry on indefinitely. This spirit, existent in all classes of the people, has made possible stupendous material achievements in West China. There they are planning with the hope of being able to carry on to the end, both financially and economically; erecting in Free China a reserve of manpower and products which will always safeguard them against want. While the ceaseless warfare has been disastrous to life and property, it has had the effect of stimulating the people to a spirit of co-operation. That, coupled with their age-old ability to survive the most overwhelming

calamities, and to carry on, patiently and uncomplainingly, however hard their lot, will undoubtedly preserve their heritage to them for ever.

Let us briefly review what is happening in West China to-day.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT—The three provinces have been transformed by the influx of technical experts, dragging machinery for hundreds of industries from the eastern provinces, while escaping from the enemy. Insuperable difficulties have been overcome. The factory equipment has been transported by river junk, by carts over primitive roads, or on the backs of men and mules. Cotton mills, spinning machines, factories for manufacturing laboratory equipment, and radio sets, and even a steel plant and mining machinery have been transported with great difficulty, and are now working at full pressure in remote valleys near one or other of the many rivers. Thousands of skilled workers have moved hundreds of miles from the occupied areas to carry on the work. Handicraft industries, to supplement the factories, are being encouraged. These are producing cloth, knitted goods, leather, soap, surgical dressings, sugar, shoes, paper, woollen blankets and many other articles required both by the civilian population and by the armies.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—Agricultural products are being increased in quantity and improved in quality. Experts have been stationed throughout a wide area to give technical assistance to the farmers, and the Government has been supplying varieties of cotton, rice and other grains, resulting in a great increase in the crops.

The planting of trees, the improved breeding of animals, the expansion of the irrigation system, road construction, and many other activities, including research, experimenting and extension work, have already materially improved economic conditions.

Exports, such as vegetable oils, salt, tea, sugar, silk and cotton have also shown a marked increase, owing to scientific research and the adoption of modern methods of production.

MINERAL WEALTH—Some of the nation's richest mineral deposits are found in these western provinces. Lead, tin, copper, mercury, salt, oil, iron, zinc, gold and silver are abundant, and the coal produced from one Yunnan district alone is not only supplying the needs of the Yunnan-Haiphong railway, but is also selling in French Indo-China. Salt is extensively consumed in China. It has been estimated that every Chinese consumes approximately three-tenths of an ounce of salt a day. The Japanese occupation of the coastal provinces has not only deprived China of part of the receipts from salt revenue, but it has also greatly curtailed salt production. The Government's efforts to increase the production are particularly successful in Szechwan, where it has taken over the marketing and transport of salt. During a whole year of hostilities no "salt famine" has been reported, despite extreme transport difficulties.

Owing to lack of facilities in this direction before the war, little attention was paid to the development of the mineral wealth. Such, however, is not the case to-day. Five thousand tons of mining machinery of the Pekin Syndicate, a British concern, are keeping the coal production in Szechwan going at a greater speed than ever before. The daily output of three leading Chinese coal-mining firms, thus helped, is around 500 tons. This will be doubled or trebled within a few months.

Szechwan, the base of China's armed resistance and reconstruction, has enough iron deposits to meet the demand of heavy industry for many years to come.

BANKS—The head offices of the four principal banks of China have moved to Chungking, in Szechwan—the Central Bank of China, the Bank of China, the Bank of Communications, and the Farmers' Bank of China. These are generally known as the "Big Four".

Several other banks are opening offices in various parts of Free China, an indication of increasing economic prosperity.

The co-operative movement has progressed rapidly. Over 70 rural co-operative banks and 25,000 co-operative societies, with a total membership of 3,000,000, have been established in Szechwan alone.

The authorized banks are required to utilize the deposited money for the following purposes:—

- (1) For constructive enterprises having a bearing on national defence.
- (2) For land reclamation, improvement of irrigation projects and the promotion of agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry.
- (3) For the development of industry and mining.
- (4) For the improvement and development of communications.
- (5) For the promotion of co-operative productive and marketing enterprises.
- (6) For all activities relating to economic reconstruction.

TRANSPORTATION—Road and railway construction have developed rapidly, linking the three Western provinces with each other and with the outside world.

The Yangtse River has always been the main route to the West from the coast. To-day it is closed to traffic, owing to Japanese occupation, but three other routes have rapidly developed—

- (1) The Haiphong-Yunnan railway to Kunming, the capital of Yunnan, is now connected by motor road to Chungking, in Szechwan, and from there by air to Chengtu, the capital of Szechwan. This is an international route, which is being much used.
- (2) These provinces are also linked by an air route from Chung-

king to Hongkong, giving another outlet from the West. The time occupied is six hours, three of which have to be blind flying at a height of 17,000 feet in pitch darkness, in order to cross the Japanese lines.

- (3) The new international land route from Burma to Yunnan, 725 miles long, was constructed by 200 Chinese engineers and over 160,000 labourers, working in malaria-infested areas. To-day it provides China with an invulnerable line of communication with the outside world, far beyond the reach of the enemy. Manufactured goods of all descriptions can be conveyed by this road, and the growing prosperity and purchasing powers of the three western provinces will not only tax its capacity, but also that of the Yunnan-Burma railway already under construction.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT—Not only has there been amazing development in the agricultural and industrial life of the west, and in the means of communication and transportation, but also in the educational and cultural life of the people. The influx of university students and professors, fleeing from the ruins of their centres of learning wrecked by the bombs of the Japanese—who have made a determined effort to wipe out Chinese culture, and have destroyed or partially damaged 52 of her universities—has transformed the western provinces, stimulating and energizing the intellectual life of the people. Universities and other cultural institutions have appeared in the remotest regions, where the students have established themselves in temples and make-shift buildings, determined to carry on their studies. It is impossible to praise too highly the indomitable courage shown by these refugee students, young women as well as men. They have migrated hundreds of miles west, many making the journey on foot and, when possible, carrying their books and laboratory equipment with them. They are preparing themselves to serve their country in the future as doctors, engineers, scientists, educationists, lawyers, agriculturists, and in many forms of social service. They are studying the problems of rural reconstruction, and are assisting the New Life Movement (inaugurated by the Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai Shek); in health campaigns; teaching illiterates; helping farmers to improve their crops and their stock; working for the Opium Suppression Bureau and serving in camps for refugees and in hospitals for wounded soldiers.

The New Life Movement is an outstanding effort on the part of Chinese leaders to build up the character of the people and to emphasize spiritual values.

It is based on the old Chinese morality taken from Confucian teaching, stressing the importance of four virtues—

Li—*Correct behaviour*—a regulated attitude of mind, resulting in correct deportment.

*Ng*i—*Righteousness*—right conduct.

Lien—*Honesty*—in personal and official life—clear discrimination.

Ch'i—*Integrity*—produced by the sense of shame in doing wrong.

Great efforts are being made to bring home to the masses of the people the importance of these rules of daily life, and groups of students visit the markets and villages, urging the people not only to loyalty and patriotism, but also teaching them the necessity for practising these four virtues. The Movement aims at raising the whole standard of living, and is intended to cover all departments of life—spiritual, intellectual and material.

The personalities of General Chiang Kai Shek and his wife behind this Movement have been the main factor in its success.

The Generalissimo is the idol of the student class, the hope of the small traders and farmers (who hitherto have only known oppression from their rulers) and also the fear of all corrupt and inefficient officials.

He is sometimes an embarrassment to the unwary missionary who may mention him in the course of a sermon; for all students present spring to their feet and salute! His fine Christian character is well known, and he is worthy of our honour and admiration.

Madame Chiang has also captured the imagination of the people by her charming personality, her plucky deeds and her devotion to the cause of the wounded soldiers and the unfortunate war orphans. Her untiring labours on their behalf, her stirring patriotic speeches and her great gifts of organization have stirred up enthusiasm and support for various kinds of war efforts. Here is a quotation from a personal letter of Madame Chiang's to Mrs. Mowll, which she has just received, and which was written from the head-quarters of the Generalissimo at Chungking. It corroborates what has already been said—

We are planting here, in the far west of China which you know so well, the foundation of a new China. You would not recognize parts of this region. Hundreds of factories, thousands of houses, are springing up in and about the capital cities. Industrial co-operatives are spreading throughout the whole of Free China. They are doing everything from coal-getting and gold-washing to making most of the things that humans wear and consume. They weave, they carpenter, they make leather, paper, machinery, tools, boats, carts and a hundred and one other things for which they can find raw materials. They share the ownership and profits that come from this craftsmanship and the sweat of their brows, and they are happy.

You would not know the provinces. All are bisected by highways which have annihilated distance and time. The journeys that used to take you ten days on foot, or in a chair, now take two by motor car—and railways are coming. The roadbed of the railway from Chungking to Chengtu is almost completed. There are 340 miles of it. Another line is under

construction from Kunming to Suifu. The latter will be 490 miles long. It will connect with both the existing Haiphong-Kunming railway and with the railway 660 miles long, that is now being built to Burma. About one-third of the earthwork on each of these lines is already completed, and work on the balance of the roadbed is being pushed forward as fast as possible. The new road to Burma is in operation and 75,000 men are now working on it, re-grading, broadening bends, and metalling, to make it an "all-year" route. So when you come back to China, if peace is here, you will be able to go by car from Shanghai to Burma, or to Europe, via Kansu, or to any province in this great country.

I mention all this just to give you an idea of what is happening in this old home of lethargy. The spirit is high, full of determination to go on fighting, and full of confidence in ultimate victory.

Japan can never defeat us or subjugate us, for there are too many of us, and we are not the people we used to be. Now every one is courageous and defiant—full of endurance. Suffering at the hands of a ruthless foreign invader has steeled us. Tempered with fire, we shall not submit.

Don't be impressed with Japanese propaganda.... We have 1,200,000 new men all ready for the front lines, in addition to the army in the field. We have enough equipment to last us for a year, even if every avenue of communication with the outside world is cut, and we are making our own machine guns and small arms and munitions.

Guerillas are everywhere. They are fighting all the time. Wherever there are Japanese soldiers our men are opposing them.

The hospital arrangements are in process of continuous betterment. Recently I went to the Hunan front with the Generalissimo. I visited as many hospitals as I could. Not one complaint came from a single wounded soldier. The only thing I was sad to see was the shortage of necessary drugs and medicines.

Yes, you'd see a new China now.

We pass now to a more detailed description of some of the cities, the people and the countryside of West China, as seen by a Westerner.

Our starting point is Kunming, the capital of Yunnan, whence we pass to Chungking, the seat of the National Government, and Chengtu, the capital of Szechwan, and from there across the province along a route frequently traversed during a ten years' residence in the country.

Kunming, formerly known as Yunnanfu, situated near a great lake about the size of the Sea of Galilee is one of the most delightful cities of China. It is 6,500 feet above sea level, and enjoys a climate which approaches perfection. The streets are wide and airy, and the gaily-painted red and green houses give a pleasant sense of colour which is in striking

contrast to the drab aspect of many Chinese cities. There are some truly wonderful "pai-lous" or memorial arches of carved stone vividly painted in bold colours. Long avenues of eucalyptus trees, introduced into the province by an Australian missionary, greatly enhance the beauty of the countryside. There is no time to give a full description of this important city, but it should be mentioned in passing that it has not escaped bombing by the Japanese.

Only in recent years has the motor road from Kunming to Chungking been completed. A few years ago there was just a rough narrow track of 30 stages, each stage representing a day's journey of about 25 miles. The journey was made in sedan chairs. Undertaken in bad weather, the slippery and precipitous roads, coupled with the meagre accommodation in primitive inns at night, was an unpleasant experience not easily forgotten.

The building of the new road was a triumph of engineering. Range after range of formidable mountains had to be crossed and sometimes the pass is 6,000 to 7,000 feet high, or even more. The road winds on and up in a series of alarming hair-pin bends, which have no parapets. Should an accident occur there is often the danger of a sheer drop of many hundred feet. Wrecked lorries are not an uncommon sight along the road, despite the skill and competence of the drivers.

Chungking, on the Yangtse River, is the second largest city of Szechwan, and is the chief port of the province. The pre-war population was about 500,000. It was increased by the influx of refugees to about 700,000, but now, because of evacuations, it has been greatly reduced. It is an amazing city—a mixture of China ancient and modern. The first sight of it from the river bank is unprepossessing. Houses built on piles to escape river floods seem to stand on top of each other, so sharply do they rise from the river. The traveller is carried in sedan chairs up steep flights of stone steps. He sees scores of small sedan chairs carried by two men and an unending stream of coolies carrying water in buckets, or great bales of cotton, or huge boxes of merchandise. He thinks he is indeed in old China. Then he emerges into fine, wide streets with big shops brilliantly lighted at night by electric light and Neon signs. Here he sees rickshaws, motor cars, and buses with Diesel engines, packed with passengers. He at once realizes that he is in modern China. Special reference must be made to the magnificent bank buildings, of which any city in the world might be proud.

Machinery has been installed to give the city a proper and clean water supply, and pipes have been laid on to dozens of "water-shops" in all parts of the city. Coolies with huge buckets carry water from these shops to private houses. Although water is not yet laid on to the houses, the new system is a vast improvement on the old.

Several daily newspapers are published in Chungking, both morning and evening, and there is even one, Chinese-owned, which is published in English, printing telegrams of the important news agencies, such as Reuters. Free China will soon be independent of foreign countries for its supply of newsprint and book-printing paper, the supply of which was lost to it when Japan occupied the coastal provinces.

A paper mill has been installed near Chungking, which produces 9 tons of paper daily. In addition to bamboo and wood pulp, the mill is using sugar-cane skin as raw material for manufacturing paper. This is a novelty in China's paper industry, and has been successfully tried out by experts, most of whom were trained in the United States.

War news, not only of China, but also of Europe, is received by radio, and to-day Chungking has the most important broadcasting station of China.

There is an air of life and progress about the city, and plans have been made for building a great embankment, or bund along the river frontage. This will be a colossal undertaking, and will transform the city. A bridge over the Yangtse River is projected—a task of no little difficulty—and it is a striking proof of China's vigour and strength that, at a time when she is engaged in a life-and-death struggle with a powerful foe, the Chinese authorities are not afraid to tackle ambitious schemes for the furtherance of the development of the province.

Chungking is now, also, a wrecked city. Enormous damage has been done by repeated bombings. In addition to the destruction inflicted by the Japanese, the Chinese themselves, as a precaution against fires, have made what are called "fire-lanes" right through the older part of the city where wide roads have not yet been built. Houses on each side of narrow streets have been demolished or half pulled down, so that Chungking has a devastated and stricken appearance. But it must not be forgotten that these "fire-lanes" will be made into wide well-paved streets as soon as the period of reconstruction begins, and so the seeming loss is really a step forward in the right direction. In spite of the heavy blows received, the spirit of the people is indomitable and their morale is high. One of the most frequent slogans to be seen pasted up on the walls is "K'ang chan tao ti", which, being interpreted, means "Resist and fight to the very end". The Chinese say—and mean it—that they will resist aggression to the very last man, the last drop of blood and the last inch of ground.

It is not possible to appraise correctly the ferment of life, the progress and the improvements now taking place in Szechwan unless something is known of the condition of affairs since the establishment of the Republic in 1911. Due largely to its geographical situation, its remoteness from the capital and seat of government, and also from the great cosmopolitan port

of Shanghai, it has been a backward province, its vast resources largely undeveloped. It is the largest province of China and the wealthiest, with a population of about 70,000,000. For years it has been the prey of war lords, each battling for place and power, but with little regard to the sufferings of the common people.

The Szechwanese themselves tell you that since the revolution there have been 390 civil wars in the province. Obviously, many of these were nothing more than slight skirmishes. Some, however, were much more serious affairs, involving the slaughter of thousands of men. Each general, upon turning his opponent out of a city or country, would levy a new series of taxes, with the result that in many places taxes had been paid for 45 years in advance. Naturally, brigandage flourished in such conditions, trade was hampered and development hindered.

I can speak from personal experience of brigandage in the province, having been captured with my wife and held for ransom by a band of brigands for 24 days in the mountainous district on the border of the Chengtu Plain. The brigands wished to be recruited into the army of a war lord, and used this method of forcing his hand. They were unsuccessful in achieving their purpose, and were forced to release their captives through pressure brought to bear on them by the Chinese authorities.

The experience, though unpleasant, was valuable, as it gave an insight into the experience of those who were so frequently subjected to treatment of this nature.

Red armies invaded the province at a time when the war lords were fighting amongst themselves, and that meant death for tens of thousands more of the people. Yet, in spite of all this turmoil and chaos, reforms were being introduced and progress was being made in many directions, to which attention will be drawn as we cross the province.

Chengtu—The routes from Chungking to Chengtu, the capital and the largest city of Szechwan, are (1) by air in two and a half hours, (2) by motor road in a day, or (3) by river in a month. It is a great city, with walls 9 miles long, 40 feet high and 20 feet broad. It is situated in an extensive plain, which has a remarkable system of irrigation made 2,000 years ago, and on which modern engineers find it difficult to bestow too much praise. From the city wall, on a clear day, the beautiful snow-capped ranges of the Tibetan Mountains, far distant across the plain, can be seen.

It is a city of universities and colleges, a truly great educational centre. Outside the wall is the West China Christian Union University. With its attractively laid out grounds, with canals and paths shaded by willow trees, and its magnificent college buildings, blending harmoniously Chinese and Western architecture, it makes a great impression on the visitor. The university is considered to be, architecturally, the most beautiful in China. It has welcomed refugee students and professors from several

down-river universities, such as the Medical School of the National Central University, the University of Nanking, Ginling College for Women, and Cheeloo University. The total enrolment to-day is 1,500.

The university is a joint enterprise of five different missions—the Methodist and Baptist Missions of the United States, the Anglican and Friends' Missions of England, and the Mission of the United Church of Canada.

This university also has suffered, but not seriously, from Japanese bombing.

The United Hospital of the Associated Universities in Chengtu, at the West China Christian Union University, the new building of which has just been completed, is the largest in China, and, in equipment, is a close rival of the P.U.M.C. in Peiping. Twenty thousand American dollars' worth of equipment, including X-rays and apparatus for the operating and sterilizing rooms, has recently been transported on seven trucks from Hongkong, as a donation from the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Board of Trustees for administration of the Boxer Indemnity Fund, returned by the British Government, has given \$75,000 Chinese currency, and a sum of \$100,000 has been contributed by the China Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Culture.

All the equipment has been brought from the United States, and is of the best quality. The hospital is complete in every modern respect except electro-therapy. It has 275 beds, and an out-patient department capable of handling 200,000 to 250,000 cases a year.

The three medical colleges that use the hospital for the training of their students can graduate 100 to 150 qualified doctors annually. The Dental Department is the only one of its kind in China.

Here in Chengtu and in other parts of West China we find outstanding Chinese Christian leaders, who have studied in Europe and America at universities, medical and engineering schools, and other cultural institutions. They, for the most part, have returned to China to help forward the progress of their own country, in Church and State, rendering unselfish service. Among them I would like to mention some who are personally known to myself, and were my colleagues in West China.

The Right Rev. C.T. Song is a graduate of the West China Christian Union University. He was ordained to the Ministry of the Chung Hun Sheng Kung Huei, the branch of the Anglican Communion in China.

He was enabled to go to England for further theological training at Oxford and Cambridge. To-day he is the Bishop of West Szechwan. He has remarkable influence with students. Every Sunday he attracts hundreds of Government School students to a Bible class, and broadcasts weekly on the Christian message.

Dr. Lü Chong Lin also took his medical course at the West China Christian Union University, and won a post-graduate scholarship to Moorfields', the famous eye, ear, nose and throat hospital in England, where he took one of the first places in the examination for the diploma. Then he returned to West China to work in a church hospital.

Mr. Lo Chong Shu is another graduate of the West China Christian Union University. He was sent to Peiping, where he received the M.A. degree, and returned to lecture on philosophy in his old university. After some years there he was sent to Oxford, where he is exercising a great influence in the direction of closer cultural co-operation between Chinese and English universities. He has been welcomed most cordially by university professors, who have met in conference with him to discuss the subject in all its bearings.

In the course of an address which he delivered at the Annual Conference of the International Student Service held in London in August of last year, he said—

Although our geographical neighbour wants to destroy us, we have at least neighbours in spirit, like you, who are doing your best to help us in our time of great distress. Such goodwill from you has certainly laid the foundation of world peace. As you know, the Chinese are a peace-loving people, and I can assure you that, after we get through the present struggle, and win our national independence and liberty, we shall also do our best to contribute to world peace, and play our part to improve the international situation, so that the world may become a happy home for every person to work cheerfully, to think creatively, and to enjoy life fully.

Dr. James Yen, who has tackled so successfully the problem of illiteracy in China, by means of his Thousand Character System now so well known throughout the country, is also a native of West China.

Reverting now to Chengtu itself, There are, of course, modern buildings and institutions in this city, but it is not a great commercial city like Chungking, which is sometimes called "Little Shanghai". There are ten daily newspapers, and it is a strong political centre. Here, again, New China is greatly in evidence, although it is easy to see, in the many beautiful, spacious courtyard buildings, legacies of the past, and reminders of the greatness of China's old and solid culture.

The Spring Fair, held each year, is unique, and attracts thousands of the people from all parts of the province.

The cherry blossom and other spring flowers, trees and plants of every description, and an astonishing variety of birds, are there for sale, as well as works of art, paintings, furniture and porcelain of great historic and cultural interest—all fascinating to the eyes of a westerner.

The handicrafts of the people, ranging from articles made of bamboo to brass and ironwork, the weaving of cotton materials for the clothing of the masses to the silks of the well to do—a feast of exquisite colour and quality—help one to realize the amazing skill and artistic gifts of the nation.

Leaving Chengtu by one of the seven great motor roads which radiate from the city across the province, it will be noticed that in the thickly-populated Chengtu Plain, the streets of the crowded cities and markets are no longer narrow and dark, as they were in the days gone by.

All the cities, market towns, and even the villages, have wide, well-paved streets. Every city, and many of the market towns, too, have public parks and gardens, many of which were originally temple property. The temples have been turned into schools, or used for other public purposes. The cities, too, have recreation grounds, where the youth may be seen playing basket ball, football, tennis and other games. In some counties competitive sports and races are organized, and who can tell what all this means for the health and well-being of young China? Those who think of China in terms of 30 years ago only, would be amazed to see girls in their school uniforms, going to college with their books under their arms, talking gaily and naturally to each other as they walk along the streets. Quoting again from Madame Chiang's letter—

And the women of China! You would never realize that such a change could take place in a nation's womanhood. No longer are they cloistered and confined in the remote parts of the home. Now they are out—working to win the war. The young women train for service, at the front and at the rear. They help the soldiers; they train the villagers to meet the vicissitudes of war, to develop hygienic surroundings, to raise their standard of living; and they preach what resistance means, and why it should be persevered with.

Most cities of any size are lighted with electricity, and have uniformed police forces. There are motor bus depots, moving picture theatres, public libraries, post offices and telephone boxes, and the inevitable parade grounds where soldiers, in swarms like locusts, are being drilled. Once again, quoting from Madame Chiang's letter—

There is another new thing that will interest you; a marvellous co-operation between the troops and the people. No more of the old antagonism and distrust. Now the soldiers are helping the people, and there is ardent reciprocity on the part of the people. We have a citizens' army now. None of the old riff-raff of the provincial war lords. The fighters of to-day are of the people. They have been recruited since this aggression began. They know what it is all about. They go in full of heroic challenge. Bands play them from recruithood to soldierdom.

They sing—and the people shout and cheer them on their way. And wounded men march back to war!

Leaving Chengtu by the north road we pass through the crowded cities of Sintu, Hanchow and Tehyang, between each of which are the rice fields, which make the Chengtu Plain the granary of West China. These fields produce three crops a year, and are well watered by the irrigation system already mentioned.

Beyond Mienchow, situated on the bank of one of the four tributaries of the Yangtse which flow through the province, giving it its name, Szechwan ("the four rivers"), the plain is succeeded by undulating country. The first view of a hill, terraced from top to bottom with rice fields of all possible varieties of size and shape, the fresh green rice sprouting, the little banks between the fields covered with yellow mustard and purple flowering Soya beans, is one of unforgettable beauty and perfume. Through such country as this the motor road leads to Paoning, or Langchung, as it is now called. Before the day of motor roads the narrow stone road was traversed in sedan chairs, taking a week to cover the distance. Now the journey, by car or bus, can be done in a day, unless there is delay caused by broken bridges, boggy roads, or defect in a worn-out motor bus.

In 1930 we were given a Ford car in England, to take back with us to West China. This was one of the first cars to be seen in the district, and created a tremendous sensation. Men, women and children could be seen running out of their farms to catch a sight of such an astonishing object.

This road passes close to many of the salt wells, which are such an asset to the nation.

Paoning was an educational centre in early days of the old Chinese examination system. Remains of the examination halls can still be seen. Now the Anglican Cathedral dominates the city. Its bishop is Chinese.

From Paoning, going south, the road becomes mountainous, passing over ranges of great beauty, covered with bamboo trees rising to a height of 50 to 60 feet, with tropical growth in some places. This road was notorious as brigand-infested, and only those whose duty it was to traverse it dared to risk running into a marauding band in its lonely mountain passes. The beauty of the scenery did not compensate for a fearful silence and the dread expectation of it being broken by a shot!

The motor road would, of course, make a detour in the valleys below, instead of crossing by the direct mountain path, and is therefore safer for the traveller. In these valleys one saw fields of the beautiful but poisonous poppy, which causes the degradation and deaths of thousands of the people. To-day a tremendous effort is being made to stamp out this evil.

An extensive publicity campaign is being carried on, by which knowledge of the harm of the drug to the health and spirit of human beings is

being brought home to the people. The determination of the Government to fight opium and narcotics—so destructive of the morale and physical fitness of the nation, and which, it is stated, the Japanese have been encouraging—is being made clear. Severe punishment is being inflicted upon both producers and consumers. In a recent publicity meeting in Chengtu, 7,900 opium pipes and implements were destroyed in public, and 100 teams were organized to participate in the Anti-opium Publicity Week in the capital of Szechwan.

Meanwhile, in Chungking, a relentless campaign against isolated cases of opium addiction is being pushed by the Szechwan Suppression Supervisory Bureau, which is functioning under the close direction of Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, in an attempt to stamp out the evil by the end of 1941.

Several important cities, such as Lanchung, Chuhsien and Liangshan, are entered by this motor road, which eventually brings us to Wanhsien—a very important treaty port, transformed during the last few years, and crowded with refugees. It has also suffered severely from air raids.

From Wanhsien a steamer takes us through the world-famous Yangtse gorges, appropriately named “The Wind Box”, “The Ox Liver”, “The Witches”, “The Yellow Cat”, and “The Lamp Light”—where the murky atmosphere, caused by the steep cliffs and high mountains, darkens the daylight—on to Ichang in Central China. The mountains enclosing these gorges rise to great heights, leaving a narrow channel for the river to pass through, and therefore many rapids and whirlpools have to be negotiated.

Here is the gateway to West China. The gorges make an effective barrier to the enemy, but they are helpless to protect even Free China from invading air planes. They do, however, prevent the enemy from using the river to enter the west, and thus they safeguard it from military attack on land. Without the gorges there might not be a Free China to-day.

China has our interest, sympathy and admiration; but expressions of horror at the disaster which has overtaken the country are not sufficient. Though ill prepared and badly equipped to meet a superior foe, China has fought bravely for more than two and a half years, when it was thought that she would capitulate in six months. By resisting the enemy so courageously she may well have served a range of interest much wider than her own. The admiration of European and Australian democracies is evoked by her struggle for freedom. Even Japan's naval, military and air strength have been challenged, and she has not been able to use the territory and resources of China to the extent she might have wished.

Surely we, in Australia, should do more to strengthen our cultural relationships with New China, and give her material help as she faces the future so courageously and enterprisingly.

Individual Britishers are helping China to-day as doctors, nurses, educationists, engineers and scientists.

The British Fund for Relief in China, started in London two years ago as "The Lord Mayor's Fund", has sent £202,000 to China, and is continuing to send £400 a month, in spite of the outbreak of war in Europe.

Let us recognize the part China is playing in the cause of national freedom and her great capacity for constructive and progressive effort, as we realize the salutary changes that have taken place, uniting the country, bringing order out of chaos, and making China a nation worthy to be acknowledged as such. The appointment of an Australian Minister to China would go far to enlighten and strengthen public opinion, and to help China in her national development.

Morrison, the brilliant Australian journalist who educated public opinion in the last century, and in whose memory these lectures were inaugurated, left no successor in his work, the result being that a great deal of public opinion, with no foundation in adequate knowledge, is, in the present crisis, unreliable.

China is asking for expert advice and help with her programme for national reconstruction and security after the war. I am sure she will not ask in vain.



Morrison and Sun Tianlu